

## The Weekly Ledger

Entered at the P. O., at Mexico, Missouri, and admitted as 2nd class matter.

### THE WEEKLY LEDGER

L. M. White, Editor.

150 Per Year, Cash in Advance. Audrain and adjoining counties, where \$2 a year in advance because of advanced postal rates.

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S IN TO PRINT ALL THE TIME. THE EVENING LEDGER, 50c a month; or \$5 by mail in advance; on Rural Routes, \$4 per year in advance in Audrain County only.

### IMPORTANT TO SUBSCRIBERS

Examine date after your name on margin of paper or wrapper. Remit promptly before your time expires and you won't miss a issue of your favorite paper. Ordinary notices, church festivals and other pay advertisements are paid for at the same rate as insertion in the Weekly Ledger.

### THE LEDGER'S PLATFORM FOR AUDRAIN

More permanently improved highways.

A highway engineer. A farm agent. A closer co-operation between the people of Audrain county and Mexico.

SOCRATES Sowers says nothing has appealed to him half so much as the desire to be a window glass manufacturer with the exclusive privilege of supplying Irish cities during the past two years.

AT the special election Tuesday there are four questions to be voted on and personally we feel they all merit a "yes" vote. You will find them in full elsewhere in this issue so that you can inform yourself regarding them.

THE streets of Mexico are today in better condition than they have been for quite a number of years. In fact there has been more work done toward improving local streets already this year than has been accomplished in the past in any three years. This is most encouraging. The present administration of City affairs is making a splendid record not only as regards streets but in many other matters.

THERE seems to be an optimistic spirit around Jefferson City regarding the successful passage of a road law that will be generally satisfactory regardless of reports that the legislature will eventually adjourn without having accomplished anything regarding the sixty million bond issue. The matter is too vital to be allowed to remain unsettled because of differences of opinion just as it is too important to be done properly and for the good of the state as a whole.

IT is most gratifying to see the results of the Rotary Club's work and that of other business men who have been instrumental in outfitting the playground in Hardin Park. The City and Chamber of Commerce have also assisted in this activity which is a most commendable one. Properly supervised play is a splendid thing for children and that is what Hardin Park today offers the little folks of Mexico. We trust this plan will be continued from year to year as it is most essential in a city this size.

THE conference between the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan for the limitation of armaments seems to be assured thing. However, in Japan's acceptance, there lurks a possibility of a row when the representatives of the nations gather for this purpose. However Japan has something to learn and it may be that this discussion will open the eyes of the small nation across the Pacific. The nations seem to want quick action and in this we believe they are reflecting the ideas of their various peoples.

THE Missouri Centennial and State Fair, to be held in Sedalia August 8 to 20, promises to surpass anything of the kind in the history of the state. Chas. E. Stokes, formerly of Mexico, will head a special trainload of Missourians returning for the show from their homes in California. The pageant, the usual racing and show ring program, the entertainment features and the added contests are bringing much new interest to the affair. Mexico and Audrain will be well represented. It will do much toward promoting interest in Missouri with the present day generation which, heretofore, has been traveling too fast for this.

AN advertisement in its arrangement as well as its reading matter should reflect your store. It should be neat and attractive if you want to leave that impression upon the prospective customer—to bring him or her to the understanding that your store is a pleasant as well as profitable place to shop in. Just as your show window should be attractively arranged so should your advertising. These may be little things, according to your understanding, but they play an important part in influencing the public to buy. The successful merchant today is the one whose every contact with the public is such that it invites business to his store and creates the impression in advance, which which should be doubly proven later in the actual transaction, that his store is the best place to buy.

## SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Supply and demand are the ruling factors in all commodities in the end of all business projects or ventures. You may throw out all safeguards you want to and may check or advance the progress of whatever conditions you please but as soon as you loosen your hold, conditions will automatically bring you and your project back to supply and demand. From this theory which is the ruling factor I will proceed to my subject which is upon the fruit shortage and famine sure to come in the near future of the State of Missouri. About twenty-five years ago it could be seen that there was a shortage of fruit but not one-half so great a shortage as we are facing today. The business men and substantial farmers saw this and set about to remedy it. Is there as much as one commercial orchard of apple, pear, peach, plum or cherry in Audrain county at the present time under seven years of age? If there is I do not know of it. Isn't it enough for us to take notice, stop a moment and think? Where are we to get our future supply of fruit? You may not look for commercial orchards to be planted until prices soar so high and fruit gets to be so profitable that it becomes necessary and I do not believe that will happen for about five to seven years from now. Here is my reason for this statement: Twenty years ago Missouri had 21,000,000 fruit trees, the largest number of any state in the union. Today she has fallen down to about 5,000,000 trees and I believe within five to seven years one-half of these will have served their mission and passed away. Then there will be a real awakening and the commercial orchard will be planted. Then what are we to do waiting three to four years for the peach, cherry and plum and five to seven years for the apple and pear? If there is a revival at once, resulting in the farmer growing his own fruit, it will be a great help to hold high prices in check to the man who raises his own fruit, and should he have a little surplus to sell will get a profitable price. A little surplus will also help to adjust prices. So the town people will not have to work eight to ten hours hard for one bushel of apples or peaches as he will have to do in the year 1921. I hope and believe we will never see prices any higher than now. With my thirty years experience with fruit and studying of records of the number of fruit trees in Missouri I believe we may reasonably look for fruit prices to be entirely too high for what we have to sell off the farm to buy the fruit with. We may see fruit prices in the year 1922 at normal or below, but for the next five to ten years we will see fruit entirely too high on the average and that for just as many more years as we neglect to set new trees. The trees are not here and we may expect to reap as we sow or plant.

Some will say this is not a fruit country. If you show a Missourian the big dollars he will show you the goods you show him a net loss and he soon quits you. That is why we are where we are today in the fruit growing business. In 1910 within twenty-five miles of Mexico in Ralls county I bought about twelve car loads or six thousand bushels of as fine a lot of apples as I believe I ever saw, at fifteen cents a bushel on the trees and eighteen cars delivered at the loading station at thirty to fifty cents per bushel, according to the quality and variety. With proper varieties and care you need not worry about the growing of the fruit but the thing for you now to worry about is having good young trees, of which we are now seventy per cent below normal. Twenty years ago we were about forty per cent above normal. This accounts for such cheap prices ten years later than that. I do not look for Missouri to get back to normal in the production of trees for about six to ten years, then we must still wait for trees to come to bearing age.

Compare the following figures: Ten years ago 1 bushel apples or peaches would buy 3 pounds strained honey, today 52 pounds. Ten years ago 1 bushel apples or peaches would buy 4 pounds sugar, today 43 pounds. Ten years ago 1 bushel apples or peaches would buy 2 pounds wool, today, 15 pounds. Ten years ago 1 bushel apples or peaches would buy 5 pounds green hides, today 100 pounds. Ten years ago 1 bushel apples or peaches would buy 5 pounds fat hogs, today 24 pounds. Ten years ago 1 bushel apples or peaches would buy 7 pounds fat cow, today 75 pounds. Ten years ago 1 bushel apples or peaches would buy 4 pounds hens, today 14 pounds. Ten years ago 1 bushel apples or peaches would buy 3/4 bu. corn, today 5 bu. Ten years ago 1 bushel apples or peaches would buy 2 bu. oats, today 12 bu. Ten years ago 1 bushel apples or peaches would buy 2/3 bu. wheat, today, 3 bu.

The future variation will not be so wide. But we may look for unsatisfactory conditions. When we consider the flavor of our fruit with fruit picked several days before ripe, one bushel of home-grown fruit is worth two of green and immature shipped-in fruit. We can no longer say we can buy cheaper than we can

raise them. I do not advocate that every one go in the fruit-growing business, but raise enough for home use. Missouri is said to produce the finest flavored fruit that is grown in the Union, of such as grow well here. I believe the time is near at hand when a young family orchard will be a drawing card to the prospective purchaser of a farm for he can build houses and barns; dig wells, etc., in a short time with money, but money will not put the young bearing orchard on the farm. It will take time. Who would let double the cost of an orchard stand between him and the purchased price of a farm with an orchard rather than one without an orchard? It appears to me that poultry, dairy, garden and fruit are just as essential as growing corn, oats and wheat in quantities and selling it at 30c, 60c and \$1.00 per bushel and paying from 200% to 400% for needed articles. You can grow apples, peaches and pears almost as cheaply per bushel as grain when one will build or make your farm for future generations, when the others will deplete it.

We are no longer at a point where we can buy the four needed articles cheaper than we can produce them on the farm. When driving through Audrain county in any direction you can see fine farms with large roomy houses, big red barns, fine stock, etc., and quite often we see the surroundings bare and bleak, especially in the prairie. Here it is without a shrubbery, roses, etc., in the yard, and often there are no shade trees, and should these be there, there will be no orchard of any description. An orchard is one of the essentials to keep and encourage the girls and boys to stay on the farm where they could spend many happy hours lounging under the graceful shade trees, then scamper out to the orchard and get those luscious peaches and big red apples as we older folks have often done.

I grew up on an eighty acre farm and ten acres was in a fine bearing orchard of one hundred varieties of apples and many varieties of peaches and I do not believe anything will hold the boys and girls on the farm and make them love it more than a fine orchard of all kinds of fruits. What can your boys and girls promise themselves by leaving the farm, going to town and taking their chances over farm life? The fathers and mothers must make farm life more attractive than town life and beautiful trees, shrubbery and large orchards will do it. If I wanted to win the affection of the little boys and girls of the town I would use fruit to do it with. Why not keep the boys and girls on the farm with the same attractions? We must have more farm producers and less men in our towns saying they have been looking for a job for a week, and that rent is due with no money to pay it. Go to the farm and you can have a job when you want it. It is the most wholesome, healthy, happy, contented life you can live.

One of the two immediate solutions in my opinion is to go at once and look after all trees of every description. Take any lone apple or peach tree, manure it heavily, dig or plow around it, rather shallow, saw dead limbs off, close to body of the tree, paint wounds with mixture of 1/12 paint and 1/12 crude carbolic acid to be sure you do not transfer the canker of the dead limbs to the fresh wounds. Otherwise prune very lightly of the big limbs, thin out small limbs and cross—limbs to open the head of the trees to the sunlight. Make it safe by pruning too little rather than too much. For growth prune when the trees are dormant; for fruit, prune in June. If you have a valuable tree which is likely to split with a load of fruit, bore a hole directly thru the limbs, run a rod thru each with large washer and nut on each end and draw together. By so doing you may save a valuable tree that might produce twenty-five dollars worth of fruit before it dies. Care for the small fruit for it responds quickly. Prune the peach back heavily, the year of no fruit—early in spring as soon as you know the fruit is killed—and prune lightly during the years of fruiting. Worm and care for all trees about the place to the utmost. They are raised and very valuable and you can not afford to lose and do without them until young ones grow to bearing age. This is one of the solutions. I will tell you the other in next week's paper.

K. B. WILKERSON

A. B. Kori of Fulton was in Mexico Friday on business.

S. M. Jordan of Keytesville spent Friday in Mexico on business.

Eugene Pearson of Louisiana was a business visitor in Mexico Friday.

Mrs. George Lee and Mrs. Jack Gelhaus are home from a visit in Macon.

Mrs. Charles Byers of Fulton is visiting her mother, Mrs. Robert Lockridge.

Don Squires, who has had his tonsils removed at Amanda Hospital, is doing nicely.

Rev. S. E. McDonald and wife of Urick, Mo., are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Hagar.

Walter Hale of Martinsburg spent Thursday here on business.

Harry Marshall of Thompson has returned home after a visit here.

BEST IN AUDRAIN COUNTY

You wanted a chance. Here are 8 improved farms 120, 200 and 320 acres. Bargains. Write for full descriptions.

STEVENS BROS., 806 Chestnut St., St. Louis, Mo. 224t Advertisement

WE PAY NO RENT.

If you want to save money a visit to our store will convince you. We have an acre of space and can furnish your home complete from cellar to garret. We have a full line of FURNITURE, RUGS and STOVES. SAM MORRIS. 17-4t Advertisement

## REED TAKES TWO STRAIGHT FROM WHEAT

Jake Reed of Fulton again proved his superiority as a wrestler when he threw Jess C. Wheat, who claims the Kansas championship, two straight Thursday night. Reed took the first fall after a thirty minutes' tussle and the second required only six.

A good crowd of fans were on hand for the match, despite the threatening weather and most of them stayed even after it started to rain, the wrestlers continuing their match in the open.

Wheat poked a very clever opponent and despite the fact that Reed tipped the scales 13 pounds more than the Kansas man, he gave Jake a good tussle. Both men pulled out of holds that looked to many of the fans like a fall and went at it again with the most speedy kind of action.

During most of the first thirty minutes, however, Reed seemed to have the advantage of wind besides his weight and finally tired his opponent into a fall using a scissors hold on the head and feet.

The second fall occupied but six minutes and during all that time the Fulton man had the upper hand and the defeat of the Kansas was plainly inevitable.

Before the first appearance of Reed, Richard McKinney of Mexico and Ray Spencer of Laddonia went 10 minutes for a fall that Spencer won.

After the first fall by Reed, Spencer and Ralph Webb, both of Laddonia hooked up for one fall for the championship of Laddonia that Spencer won after Webb had given a good fight.

Sam Locke refereed the matches in fine fashion. Both he and Charles Pulis, athletic officer of the American Legion, deserve much credit of the success of the events.

## TAX REDUCED

The State tax rate, announced as 18c for the current year has been reduced to 10c according to a notice received by the County Clerk.

The decrease, however, is hardly commensurate with increase in valuation, which was 121% in this county.

Sheriff Returns With Aguilar. Sheriff Chal Blum returned Saturday night with Carlos Aguilar, who is wanted here on a charge of defrauding M. M. A. out of \$950 on a bad check. The sheriff and officials of the institution had traced the man to New York after a nation-wide search. The incident has cost the academy \$1,500 already.

Walter Crutcher Dead. Word was received Monday of the death of Walter Crutcher at the Confederate Home at Higginsville. Details could not be learned at the time of going to press.

Mr. Crutcher is survived by a daughter, Mrs. T. Reed of this city and is an uncle of Harry Reed. The Ledger joins friends in extending sincere sympathy.

George Clark, is improving slowly.

Dave Ball, of Louisiana, spent Sunday here.

Mrs. Kredel is home from a visit in Columbia.

Miss Mildred Hopkins of Fulton is visiting Mexico friends.

Sam Byrns is home from the Elks convention in Los Angeles.

Maurice Barth, of Omaha, was here this week the guest of his brothers.

F. A. Morris and family returned home from the West Sunday morning.

Mrs. Dunham and little son of Kansas City are visiting Mrs. Jack Denner.

Miss Nellie Harris of Fulton came to Mexico Saturday for a few days' visit.

P. A. Dent of Vandalia spent Thursday in Mexico.

C. D. Scroggin of Laddonia transacted business here Friday.

Walter Hale of Martinsburg spent Thursday here on business.

Harry Marshall of Thompson has returned home after a visit here.

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## JUDGE BOTTS WRITES ABOUT ROAD LAW

JEFFERSON CITY, Aug. 1.—The 60 million dollar road bill was passed by the legislature Saturday night by an overwhelming vote.

The measure went through the house by a vote of 129 to 2. A few minutes later it passed the senate by a vote of 28 to 0.

Road Law at a Glance.

Hard surfaced roads at minimum of \$6,000 to be built under direction of highway commission of four members.

Safeguards provisions to obtain federal aid.

Eliminates provision to set aside 114 miles in each county for annual appropriations.

Construction shall begin as nearly at the same time as possible in all counties. Apportionment of funds to each and every county to be made at the same time and payments made pro rata as funds are received.

Defines hard surfaced roads as: "Concrete, comparable types, properly bound gravel or the equal of property bound gravel, to be approved by the highway commission and to meet government regulations."

Basis of apportionment: Multiply total miles in statewide system of roads in such county by \$6,000 (Provision made to increase apportionment in counties requiring unusually costly hard road construction.)

Highway commission may sue those damaging state roads.

Commission to be of four members, 6-year appointments. Engineer's salary to be \$7,500 a year.

State highway designation by counties shall be on town to town basis.

The following letter from Audrain's representative, Judge W. W. Botts, will be of interest to Audrain Countyans telling as it does of his action regarding the road law and why he took the action he did:

Jefferson City, Mo. July 30, 1921.

Editor of the Ledger:

It will no doubt be of interest to your readers to know how it happened that the state road system in Audrain county was radically changed in the last minute of the struggle between the house and senate over the road bill. This change consisted in cutting out the Mexico and Perry road which, by the way, was my favorite of all the state roads of the county, passing as it does through my old home district and past the farms of my nearest relatives and friends and designating in its stead, a road running from what is known as Scott's corner near Martinsburg, north and east through Laddonia, Farber and Vandalia to connect with the east and west in Pike County.

I ought to say in passing that the change would not have been made without my consent and that I did consent to it, although I knew that in doing so I was sacrificing to some extent the interest of Mexico, and to a much greater extent the interest of nearest and dearest relatives and friends. But I felt and still feel that it would have been little short of

an outrage to leave so important and so large a part of the county as the territory surrounding Laddonia, Farber and Vandalia without any connection with the state road system. My plan for correcting the system was to leave the Mexico and Perry road and run a branch west from near the corner of Ralls county, passing near Laddonia and Farber and through Vandalia to connect with the Pike county road. This could not be accomplished because it gave Audrain county too much mileage.

This question of state road mileage for each county was one of the storm centers around which the contest raged during the entire session in the house and finally in the contest between the two houses. Members were seriously watching each other to see that no county got more than its fair share of roads, this was especially the case after it was decided that each county was to be guaranteed six thousand dollars a mile for each mile of the state roads. The fact that Audrain was a long, narrow county lying in the pathway from North and west Missouri to St. Louis and also in the pathway from northeast Missouri to the state institutions at Fulton, Columbia and Jefferson City, was not enough, in the minds of the average legislators to justify it in claiming ninety miles of the state highway, when sixty miles was about the average. Especially was this true of the members from south Missouri who were in the majority.

So, there was nothing to do but to cut one of the five roads that radiate from Mexico and tack its mileage to the east end of the road running east from Mexico. The other four roads are part of through lines that could not be dispensed with and there was nothing for me to do but sacrifice the interest of my friends for the larger interest of the greater number of the people of the county.

The house had shut the door tight and hard against any change that would increase the road mileage and the house committee had refused to consider changes and I thought the matter settled. But late Saturday evening, when the senate conferees found that they had to yield to the house, they asked as sort of soothing balm, that they be allowed to make some changes in the location of roads, which was granted by the house conferees. Senator Hostetter, one of the conferees, being anxious for an extension of the Pike county road to connect with Vandalia and Mexico, called me in to the conference committee and I consented to the change, and wrote the amendment that made the change.

The bill as finally drafted passed the house with one dissenting vote and the senate without a dissent. It contains much of the bill that I introduced word for word and in its essential elements approximates very closely to the ideas contained in my bill, but does not contain the special benefit feature, which to my mind was necessary in order to be fair to the people who are specially benefited and to those who are too far from the roads to be specially benefited. I was one of ten men who voted against the bond issue.

W. W. BOTTS.

P. J. Kelly of Fulton came to Mexico on a short business trip Thursday.

J. R. Jesse Named.

The Hardin College Board has elected J. R. Jesse as treasurer of the college.

## B. Marshall and Miss V. Lowery Elope

Miss Verna Lowery and Bryan Marshall surprised their friends Friday by eloping and having their marriage performed in a town west of Mexico, continuing in Mr. Marshall's car westward for a honeymoon to California.

Mrs. Marshall is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Lowery of East Holm Street, a graduate of McMillan High School and one of the city's very popular and attractive young ladies.

Mr. Marshall, who has a large following of admirers because of his splendid work on the mound for the Mexico Athletics, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Marshall and a very able and conscious young man.

Mr. Marshall has had an offer of a place in the Pacific Coast League and was considering this at the time of his departure, tho he had not definitely decided to take it.

The Ledger joins the many friends of this popular young couple in extending congratulations and best wishes.

C. A. Pool of Callao made a visit in Mexico Thursday and Friday.

Mrs. Lee Shire is visiting at the home of E. L. Qualls in Fulton.

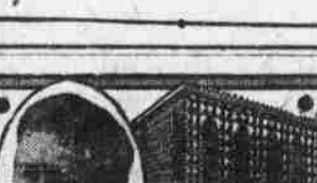
Do you know why it's toasted?

To seal in the delicious Burley flavor.

It's toasted.



Mr. Glancy of The MARQUETTE 18th St. and Washington Ave. St. Louis



A Refined Hotel for Your Mother, Wife and Sister Single Room with Private Bath \$2.00 \$2.50 \$3.00 Double \$3.00 \$3.50 \$4.00 Room without bath, single, \$1.50 Room without bath, double, \$2.00 \$2.50 \$3.00 A Short Block from Union Station

## Big Sale of Farm Land

AT REDUCED PRICES FOR AUGUST ONLY

As a special offer to farmers and stockmen through this section a selected tract of

10,000 ACRES—GRAIN, STOCK FARM AND GRAZING LAND IN THE HIGHLANDS OF LOUISIANA

Has been set aside for sale during the month of August only, at prices considerably lower than this land has heretofore been offered.

All of the acreage included in this big August sale is close to towns, schools, railway shipping points, near or on forty foot graded roads, and is right in the heart of the biggest development in the entire Highlands District.

SPECIAL, REDUCED RATE EXCURSIONS

WILL LEAVE KANSAS CITY AT 11:35 P. M., ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 13 AND SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

If you want to see the fastest growing farming and stock-raising community in the South where good land is to be had at a low price per acre, with one-fifth cash down payment at time of purchase and balance on long, easy terms, don't miss this great opportunity to visit the Highlands and make your land selection there during the August Discount Sale.

Applications for the low-rate, round-trip tickets on these excursions, which includes every necessary expense from Kansas City to the Highlands and return, are now being received.

Communicate at once with

C. B. LUCKIE, Mexico, Mo.

Local Representative

or write, wire

LONG-BELL FARM LAND CORPORATION Fourth Floor R. A. Long Bldg.

Kansas City, Mo.